



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

DIVISION OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Phone: 919.662.4499 Fax: 919.661.4845 Courier Number: 56-20-17



Physical Address:

319 Chapanoke Road
Raleigh, NC 27603

Mailing Address:

2201 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2201

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

Deborah J. Cassidy, Director

New Child Care Related Laws in 2010

1. Nutrition Standards in Child Care - G.S. 110-91(2)

Requires the Child Care Commission (in partnership with the Division of Public Health) to develop improved nutrition standards for child care facilities. In developing the standards, the Commission shall consider these recommendations:

- a. Limiting or prohibiting the serving of sweetened beverages, other than 100% fruit juice, to children of any age.
- b. Limiting or prohibiting the serving of whole milk to children two years of age or older or flavored milk to children of any age.
- c. Limiting or prohibiting the serving of more than six ounces of juice per day to children of any age.
- d. Limiting or prohibiting the serving of juice from a bottle.
- e. Creating an exception from the rules for parents of children who have medical needs, special diets, or food allergies.
- f. Creating an exception from the rules to allow a parent or guardian, or to allow the center upon the request of a parent or guardian, to provide to a child food and beverages that may not meet the nutrition standards.

This new law also requires DCD to study and recommend guidelines for increased levels of physical activity in child care. In addition, the Division of Public Health (DPH) shall form a committee to examine current nutrition standards in consideration of any potential changes in the federal guidelines related to the Child and Adult Care Food Program. This examination shall be conducted by December 1, 2010, and DPH will then submit a report of findings to the Legislative Task Force on Childhood Obesity, the Public Health Study Commission, and the Fiscal Research Division.

2. Early Educator Certification - G.S. 110-91(8a)

Requires early care and education providers working in licensed child care or licensed family child care homes to obtain and maintain early educator certification.

- Teaching staff working in licensed child care centers as of October 1, 2010, shall have their education certified by the North Carolina Institute for Child Development Professionals by July 1, 2012.
- Teaching staff hired to work in licensed child care centers after October 1, 2010, shall have their education certified by the North Carolina Institute for Child Development Professionals within 60 days of their hiring.
- Licensed family child care home providers in operation as of October 1, 2010, shall have their education certified by the North Carolina Institute for Child Development Professionals by July 1, 2012.
- Licensed family child care home providers that begin operation after October 1, 2010, shall have their education certified by the North Carolina Institute for Child Development Professionals within 60 days of licensing.
- Child care administrators shall have their education certified with an Administrator Endorsement by July 1, 2012. Child care administrators hired after July 1, 2012, shall have their education certified with an Administrator Endorsement within 60 days of their hiring.

3. Responsible Individuals List - G.S. 7B-101(18a)

The Department of Health and Human Services shall maintain a central registry of abuse, neglect, and dependency cases and child fatalities that are the result of alleged maltreatment. DHHS may provide information from this list to DCD in order to help determine the fitness of individuals to care for children.

4. More at Four Regulatory Functions

In the special provisions section of the budget bill, the regulatory oversight functions of More at Four classrooms in private child care settings was transferred from the Department of Public Instruction to the Division of Child Development. DCD will work with the Office of Early Learning in the coming months to plan for staff training and implementation.